The United Nations and the Embassies of the UK and Ireland present:

The School in The Cloud

The screening will be introduced by Alison Rose, British Ambassador to Belgium and Ruth Barrett, Deputy Head of Mission to the Embassy of Ireland. The film will be followed by a panel discussion with:

Jerry Rothwell Director of the Film

Jerry Rothwell is a filmmaker whose work includes the award-winning feature documentaries: How To Change The World, about the founders of Greenpeace; Town of Runners, about two girls in an Ethiopian village who aspire to be athletes; Heavy Load, about a group of people with learning disabilities who form a punk band, and Deep Water (co-directed with Louise Osmond), about Donald Crowhurst's ill-fated voyage in the 1968 round the world yacht race. His work has won numerous accolades including two Grierson Awards, a Sundance Special Jury Prize, an RTS Award, the IDA Pare Lorentz Award and a BAFTA nomination.

Andrew Long
Development Counsellor, UK Representation to the EU

Andrew Long is Development Counsellor and Head of the Dept for International Development (DFID) team at the UK Representation to the EU. He was previously Head of Profession for Social Development at DFID and has extensive experience working in the areas of social and community driven development, conflict and gender equality, including working with the UN, EU and World Bank. His field experience includes Africa (Zambia, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Malawi, Somalia, DRC, Uganda, Kenya); the Middle East (Yemen, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Iraq); South Asia (Bangladesh, Afghanistan), and the Balkans.

Paolo Fontani
Director of the UNESCO Liaison Office in Brussels and the UNESCO Representative to the European Institutions

Paolo Fontani has been the Director of the UNESCO Liaison Office in Brussels and the UNESCO Representative to the European Institutions since 1 December 2015. Before arriving to Brussels, Mr Fontani was the Director of the UNESCO Office in Kabul. He joined UNESCO in 1996 and has worked in Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, the Caribbean, and Brazil.

Clare Sears
British Council Director Western Balkans

Clare Sears is the British Council's Director Serbia and Western Balkans. She has spent the last 10 years of her career focusing on the Western Balkans first as Country Director Albania and then as Director of programmes and marketing for the Wider Europe region before taking the role of Director Western Balkans in September 2015. The focus for the British Council in the Western Balkans is on giving young people the skills they need for a prosperous future.

Carlos Jimenez
Spanish Desk Officer, the United Nations Regional Information Centre

Carlos Jimenez is the Desk Officer for Spain and Andorra at UNRIC, the United Nations Regional Information Centre in Brussels. Mr Jimenez started his career at the United Nations in 1984 and has since worked at UN offices in New York, Madrid and Geneva. He studied journalism at the School of Communications of American University in Washington and was a correspondent at EFE, Spanish News Agency.

Follow the discussion on Twitter and Facebook:

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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION

With a view to enhance international cooperation in supporting the efforts towards the realization of Sustainable Development Goal 4, the resolution called on all stakeholders including Member States, organizations of the UN system, and civil society, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, the private sector, individuals and other relevant stakeholders to observe the International Day of Education.

UNESCO, as the specialized United Nations agency for education, will facilitate the annual observance of the Day in close collaboration with main education actors.

Introducing the resolution to the General Assembly, H.E. Tijjani Muhammad Bande, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations, underscored that proclamation of January 24 as the International Day of Education is an important step in order to promote education as a critical aspect of sustainable development. He emphasized that education is not only a human right, but a path for sustainable development.

The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice. The Goals interconnect and in order to leave no one behind, it ís important that we achieve each Goal and target by 2030.

Obtaining a quality education is the foundation to creating sustainable development. In addition to improving quality of life, access to inclusive education can help equip locals with the tools required to develop innovative solutions to the world's greatest problems.

In 1999, Sugata Mitra's pioneering "Hole in the Wall" experiments helped bring the potential of self-organized learning to the public's attention. Research since then has continued to support his startling conclusion that groups of children, with access to the Internet, can learn almost anything by themselves.

The School in the Cloud platform was originally launched at the 2014 TED conference to help accelerate this research by helping educators — be they teachers, parents or community leaders — to run their own SOLEs and to contribute to the global experiment by sharing their experiences with others.
It is now managed by SOLE Central at Newcastle University, a global hub for SOLE research and practice directed by Sugata Mitra.

What is a SOLE?
A Self-Organised Learning Environment, or SOLE, can exist anywhere there is a computer, Internet connection, and students who are ready to learn. Within a SOLE students are given the freedom to learn collaboratively using the internet. An educator poses a Big Question and students form small groups to find an answer.